

Trapezopentus WIND & ČEPEK, 1979

Description:

Pentalith constructed of overlapping trapezoidal elements surrounding a large central opening.

Derivation of name: The name of the genus is derived from the Greek *Trapezion* = 4-sided; *Penta* = five.

Remarks:

This genus is distinguished from *Braarudosphaera* and *Micrantholithus* by the presence of a large central opening. *Braarudosphaera* and *Micrantholithus* are constructed of five generally triangular plates which meet at or near a central point. Overlapping of adjacent elements is sometimes observed in these latter genera. On the light microscope, sutures of *Trapezopentus* are not radial, as in other pentaliths, but appear as continuations of the inner margin of component elements. Forms placed in *Trapezopentus* cannot be viewed as dissolved specimens of *Braarudosphaera* or *Micrantholithus* as dissolution would be expected to disarticulate pentaliths rather than enlarge a central area perforation.

Type species:

Trapezopentus sarmatus WIND & ČEPEK, 1979.

Author:

Wind F. H. & Čepek P., 1979, p. 232.

Reference:

Lower Cretaceous calcareous nannoplankton from DSDP Hole 397A (Northwest African Margin). Init. Repts. DSDP, vol. 47, pp. 221-255, 11 pls., 3 text-figs.